Violation of Indian Telegraph Act by Multi National Companies

1663: SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multinational Telecom Services Companies like AT & T, BT, Equant and MCI including their affHiates/sister concerns have applied for NLD and ILD licenses;

(b) whether any show-cause notices, as reported in the Press for violation of the provision of the Indian Telegraph Act have been issued to these companies for providing telecom services without any licenses/ permission causing huge losses to Government by way of license fees, entry fees, taxes including the violations of FEMA and other laws;

(c) whether these companies are still continuing illegal telecom services; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any punitive action against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) M/s AT & T GIobal Network Services India Private Limited has applied for grant of National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance (ILD) Service Licences.

(b) Show cause notices were issued M/s AT&T, M/s BT, M/s Equant and M/s. MCI.

(c) and (d) The Case is under examination and no final decision has been taken so far.

Broadcasting code on Sting Operations

1664. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following some sensational sting operations undertaken by electronic media, Government have drafted a comprehensive set up guidelines contemplating a series of "Do's" and "Don'ts" for broadcast media;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any Broadcasting Code or guidelines have been drafted by Government on "Sting Operations"; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a Committee has been constituted to review the Programme & Advertising Codes which was held a number of sessions.

Telephone Directory of Mobile Phones

1665. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have not been updating their telephone directories regularly;

(b) when was the last time that the telephone directories in State/ Capitals been updated;

(c) in what manner any effort has been made also to update directory information of mobile phones of BSNL and MTNL; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the Telephone Directory Enquiry Service of fixed line customers of Bharat Sancnar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are updated regularly. The updated information is available on 197-the toll free Directory Enquiry Service and also on their respective websites. However, some delay exists in printing of these telephone directories.

(b) The dates of issue of printed telephone directories of State Capitals are given in the Statement. (See below).

(c) and (d) BSNL and MTNL have not been providing directory information of mobile phones.